



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Celebrates Start of Tucson Gem and Mineral Show
Acclaimed Show an Arizona Tradition and Economic Powerhouse

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today celebrated the kick-off to Tucson's 58th annual Gem and Mineral Show, believed to be the largest of its kind in the United States.

"With Arizona's Centennial upon us, I feel fortunate to be a part of one of our state's longest-running and most highly-acclaimed traditions: the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show," said Governor Brewer. "This event has had both cultural and economic significance in Arizona for more than half of our Statehood. I am glad to see its popularity continue to thrive."

In honor of Arizona's centennial anniversary – and in keeping with this year's Show theme, "Minerals of Arizona" – exhibits will feature the finest and most exotic minerals, gemstones and fossils unearthed across the state. Additionally, the Show will include special exhibits presented by museums and educational institutions, private collectors and more than 250 dealers from all over the world. Presenters include: the University of Arizona, Harvard University, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Carnegie Museum of Natural History and National Museums Scotland.

According to the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Gem and Mineral Show attracts approximately 55,000 visitors annually – generating between \$70 million and \$100 million in economic impact each year. Proceeds from the Show remain in the local economy and help support mineral education and appreciation programs.

"Mining played a crucial role in Arizona's development, and continues to be an important part of our economy and culture," said Governor Brewer. "With the Arizona Centennial upon us, there is no better time to celebrate both our mining culture and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show."

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